

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending; Claim 1 is amended; and no claims are newly added or canceled herewith.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 102(f).

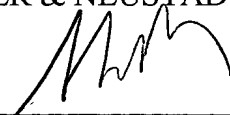
Applicants have filed herewith a Statement from Added Inventor to request that under 37 C.F.R. 1.48(a) the inventorship be corrected. The required \$130.00 fee is enclosed for this petition. In addition, a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 is also enclosed. Accordingly, as the subject matter of Kikukawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,722, hereafter, Kikukawa) that is common to the above-identified application is the common invention of Mr. Takashi Kikukawa, a named inventor of the present application, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as unpatentable over Claims 1 and 2 of Kikukawa. Claim 1 has been amended herewith, thereby obviating this rejection. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and the present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
GJM:RTP:KDP:law:dmr